GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2559
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about ten million newly born children go unregistered every year in India; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure compulsory registration of all the births in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a): As per the latest reports available from the states, it is estimated that out of approximately 25 million births in the country in a year, around 13.5 million births are registered. Therefore, an estimated 11.5 million births may not be getting registered.

(b): The following major steps have been taken by the government to achieve full registration of births.

1) The Home Minister had written to the Chief Ministers of the States that have low levels of registration.The Home Secretary had also, on more than one occasion, urged the Chief Secretaries the need on the part of the state governments to give special attention to this work.
2) One of the main reasons for poor registration of birth in many parts of the country is lack of awareness among the general public about the need and importance of registration. Certain publicity campaigns have, therefore, been launched during the past few years for creating more awareness about the importance of registration of births and deaths. The various media used are radio, T.V., postal stationery, cinema slides, posters and stickers, etc.
3) Although the responsibility of reporting of births occurring in the house lies with the head of the household, such events may not get reported to the Registrar for registrations due to various reasons. On the advice of the Registrar General`s, office, some States have designated health and family welfare workers, anganwadi workers, chowkidars etc., as informants to assist in getting these events registered.
4) The states have been advised to take strict action against the defaulting medical institutions that do not report the event occurring within the institutions to the local Registrar in time.
5) The Registrar General, India held detailed review meetings of the Chief Registrars of Births & Deaths of all the States and Union territories for four consecutive years starting from 1996. In these meetings performance of each state was reviewed separately and strategies for improvement of birth and death registration were laid down for appropriate action by the states.
6) The Registrar General, India has particularly identified the five poorly performing states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and conducted two rounds of special meetings to suggest measures for improvement in the registration of births and deaths in the states.